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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,128	03/11/2004	Naveenkumar Vishwanath Muguda	RSW920030302US1	8794

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EXAMINER

ANWARI, MACEEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2144

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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10/09/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,128

Applicant(s)

MUGUDA ET AL.

Examiner

Maceeh Anwari

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 3/11/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This is the initial Office action based on the 10/798,128 application filed on 3/11/2004. Claims 1-25, as originally filled, are currently pending and have been considered below.

Specification

1. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: The applicant mentions in claims 15, 24-25 a *computer operable medium*; however the applicant does not disclose within the Specification what this medium is.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3, 8, 14 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The applicant uses the phrase *rule pen* throughout the text of these claims; however fails to successfully explain what a *rule pen* is. Therefore, the examiner will interpret a *rule pen* to be a no different than a collection of rules or a rule set.

3. Claims 4-7, 11-13, 17-19 & 21-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the

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subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The applicant uses the phrase *rule sentence(s)* within the text of the instant claims; however, fails to delineate between a *rule sentence(s)* and a rule. Therefore, the examiner will interpret a *rule sentence(s)* to be the same as any rule.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 1-25 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gross et al. (hereinafter-Gross) U.S. Patent No.: 5,283,856.

Gross teaches:

Claim 1: A computer implemented method comprising: invoking a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receiving a message from one of the plurality of users, the message including a rule (Figures 1-9 and Abstract; mail messaging, users and rules and rule sets); identifying a subset of the plurality of users that correspond to the rule (Figures 1-9 and Abstract; mail messaging, users and rules and rule sets); and forwarding the message to the identified users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract & Col. 10 lines 44-51; mail messaging, users and sending messages).

Claim 2: Wherein the message includes a comment, and wherein recipient clients are adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient clients corresponding to the identified users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; mail messaging and message text).

Claim 3: Wherein the comment is displayed using display attributes corresponding to a rule pen, the rule pen corresponding to the rule (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; mail messaging, message text and rule, rule engine, rule editor and rule data base).

Claim 4: Wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences, the identifying further comprising: selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants and multiple users); and matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants, rule editor, rule name and multiple users).

Claim 5: Wherein at least one of user attributes is selected from the group consisting of a job description and an expertise (Figures 9-11A and Abstract; marketing).

Claim 6: Wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function (Figures 1-11A and Abstract & Col. 4 lines 33-45; rule set, rule data base and multiple functions).

Claim 7: Wherein a recipient client is adapted to modify the rule, the modifying including changing the number of rule sentences that correspond to the rule, the recipient client corresponding to one of the identified users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; rule editor and multiple users).

Claim 8: Wherein the received message is sent from a sending client, the sending client adapted to select a rule pen from a rule pen stand, wherein the rule pen includes the rule (Figures 9-11A and Abstract & Col. 10 lines 44-51; rule, rule set, mail messaging, users, sending messages and users).

Claims 9-14 list all the same elements of **claims 1-2 & 4-8** (respectfully), but in system form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to **claims 1-2 & 4-8** applies equally as well to **claims 9-14**.

Claims 15-20 list all the same elements of **claims 1-2 & 4-8** (respectfully), but in a program product form rather than method form. Therefore, the supporting rationale of the rejection to **claims 1-2 & 4-8** applies equally as well to **claims 15-20**.

Claim 21: A computer implemented method comprising: invoking a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receiving a message from one of the plurality of users, the message including a rule, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences (Figures 1-11A and Abstract; mail messaging, users and rules and rule sets); selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract;

participants and multiple users); matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants, rule editor, rule name and multiple users); and forwarding the message to the identified user, wherein the message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract & Col. 10 lines 44-51; mail messaging; users, sending messages and message text).

Claim 22: A computer implemented method comprising: invoking a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receiving a message from one of the plurality of users, the message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function (Figures 1-11A and Abstract & Col. 4 lines 33-45; recipient, rule set, rule data base and multiple functions); selecting a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants and multiple users); matching each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants, rule editor, rule name and

multiple users); and forwarding the message to the identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract & Col. 10 lines 44-51; mail messaging, users and sending messages).

Claim 23: An information handling system comprising: one or more processors (Figures 4-9 and abstract; rule mechanism, event manager and rule editor); a memory accessible by the processors (Figures 4-9 and abstract; rule data base); one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by the processors (Figures 4-9 and abstract; rule data base and folders and memory manager); and a collaborative discussion tool that identifies a subset of a plurality of users that correspond to a rule (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging, rule mechanism, rule set and users), the collaborative discussion tool comprising software code effective to: invoke a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receive a message from one of the plurality of users over a computer network, the message including a rule, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences (Figures 1-9 and Abstract; mail messaging, users and rules and rule sets); select a participant entry from one of the nonvolatile storage devices, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants and multiple users); match each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; rule editor and multiple users); and forward the message to the

identified user over the computer network, wherein the message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; mail messaging, message text and rule, rule engine, rule editor and rule data base).

Claim 24: A program product comprising: computer operable medium having computer program code, the computer program code being effective to: invoke a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receive a message from one of the plurality of users, the message including a rule, wherein the rule includes a plurality of rule sentences, the matching resulting in an identified user (Figures 1-9 and Abstract; mail messaging, users and rules, rule sets and recipient and sender); and forward the message to the identified user, wherein the message includes a comment, and wherein a recipient client is adapted to display the comment in the same display window as the collaborative discussion, the recipient client corresponding to the identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; mail messaging, message text and rule, rule engine, rule editor and rule data base).

Claim 25: A program product comprising: computer operable medium having computer program code, the computer program code being effective to: invoke a collaborative discussion, the collaborative discussion including a plurality of users (Figures 1, 3A-9 and Abstract; mail messaging and users); receive a message

from one of the plurality of users, the message including a plurality of rule sentences, wherein at least one of the rule sentences includes a rule sentence value, and wherein the rule sentence value is selected from the group consisting of a term, a constant, a connective and a function (Figures 1-11A and Abstract & Col. 4 lines 33-45; rule set, rule data base and multiple functions); select a participant entry, the participant entry corresponding to one of the plurality of users (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants and multiple users); match each of the plurality of rule sentences with one or more user attributes that correspond to the selected participant entry, the matching resulting in an identified user; and forward the message to the identified user (Figures 9-11 and Abstract; participants, rule editor, rule name and multiple users).

Examiner Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in its entirety as potentially teaching of all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

Conclusion

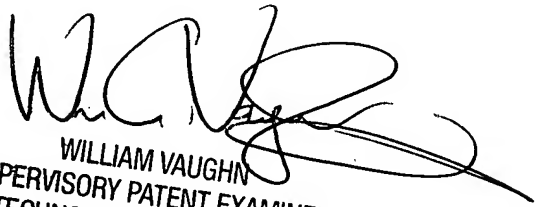
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maceeh Anwari whose telephone number is 571-272-7591. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00 PM ES.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Vaughn can be reached on 571-272-3922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.


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